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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,924	08/28/2003	Hiroyuki Koyama	03496/LH	2489
1933	7590	10/17/2006	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC 220 Fifth Avenue 16TH Floor NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708			COLILLA, DANIEL JAMES	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 10/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/652,924

Applicant(s)

KOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Colilla

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

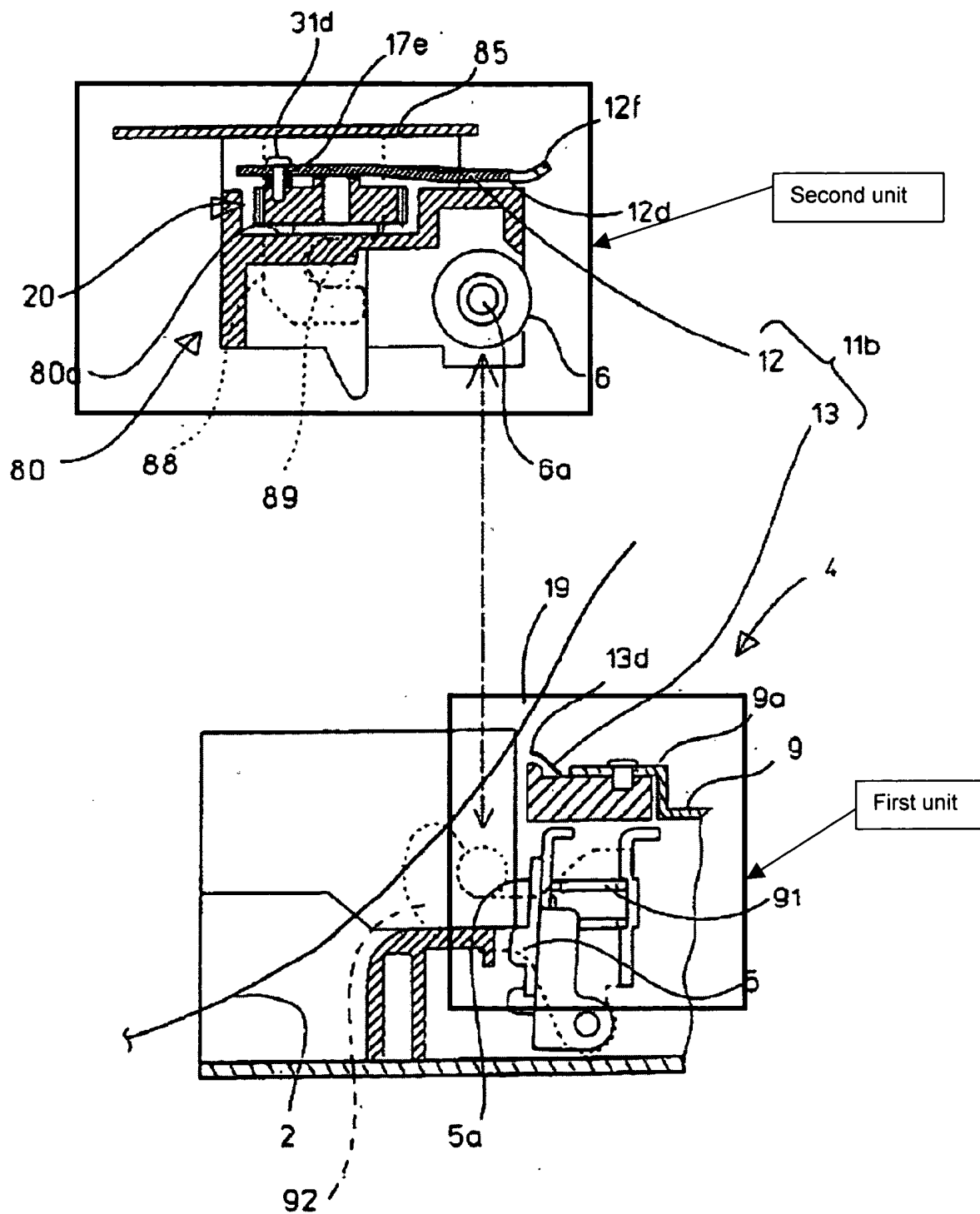
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 10-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Fujiwara (JP 2002-219832).

With respect to claim 10, Fujiwara discloses a printer unit including a base section 4 of a printer, a guide path which guides paper as shown by paper 2 in Figure 12 of Fujiwara, a printing section having a platen 6 and a printhead 5 located opposite to each other with the guide path interposed therebetween. Further disclosed is a cutter section which includes a stationary blade 13 and a movable blade 12 located opposite to each other with the guide path interposed therebetween (see Figure 12 of Fujiwara); the printed paper being cut by engaging the movable blade 12 with the stationary blade 13. Also disclosed is a first unit and a second unit as shown below:

Fig. 13



The first unit is supported at the base section 4 and is located on one side of the guide path and includes the printhead 5 and the stationary blade 13. The second unit is provided completely separate from the base section as shown above and is located on the other side of the guide path. The second unit includes the platen 6 and the movable blade 12. Additionally, Fujiwara discloses a connecting mechanism 6a,92 which removably connects the second unit to the first unit such that the first unit supports the second unit and such that the printing section and the cutter section are operable when the second unit is connected to the first unit (Figure 13, see patent family member US 6,831,670, col. 17, lines 19-38 for an English description).

With respect to claim 11, the base unit removably supports the first unit because any structure that was assembled in order to be a unit can also be disassembled.

With respect to claim 14, Fujiwara discloses a movable blade holding section 20, 31d as shown in Figure 15. Since the movable blade 12 was attached to holding section 20,31d it must inherently also be detachable or removable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara (JP 2002-219832).

With respect to claim 12, Fujiwara discloses the claimed printer unit except that is not clear if a plurality of shaft support sections are disclosed. Fujiwara discloses a connecting mechanism including a connecting shaft 6a on the second unit that is orthogonal to a guide direction along which the paper is guided. The shaft would extend from both ends of the platen and can be considered to be two shafts. Fujiwara further discloses a shaft support section 92 which is provided on the first unit as shown in Figure 13. The connection shaft 6a is fitted into the support section 92 when the second unit is connected to the first unit. It would have been obvious to provide additional shaft support sections because it is obvious to provide more of the same structure for carrying out the same function. In this case, it would have been obvious to combine an additional support section 92 on the opposite side of the platen in order to provide a symmetrical balance of forces acting on the printing section.

With respect to claim 13, Fujiwara discloses that the platen 6 includes a paper support section (as shown in Figure 13) which supports the paper and a support shaft 6a that extends from both ends of the paper support section to serve as one of the connecting shafts.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Colilla whose telephone number is 571-272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached at 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2854

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 3, 2006


Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854